Joyce Ann Surman

I was blessed to know Joyce as a teacher, mentor and friend. In the early 1970s, I knew Joyce as an English teacher at Frank H. Morrell High School in Irvington, NJ where she fostered a love of learning, literature, poetry and critical thinking. After graduating, Joyce and I shared a lifelong friendship where she continued to mentor me. When she passed, I found a large box of her soliloquies and poetry with a note asking me to share them. Many of them demonstrate her deep faith, insight, intelligence, gratitude, fear and, most of all, love. Her presence is deeply missed by those who loved her.

Her high school graduation bio notes: “The desire to instill in others a thirst for knowledge and a quiet contentment with life” She fully realized the attainment of those desires.